



# Brick, Block & Trowel

Masonry Institute Newsletter

May 2006 / Issue 9

## Directors Corner

Well members, we are headed into summer and it appears everyone is enjoying a full slate of work ahead. That's great, but let's not lose sight of the fact that many important issues are facing our industry and the economy of this nation. That could not have been made clearer than by the information some of us received while attending the Masonry Industry Legislative Conference April 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006 on Capital Hill.

This conference was a collaboration of four National Associations:

MCAA - Mason Contractor's of America

NCMA - National Concrete Masonry Association

BIA - Brick Industry of America

BSI - Building Stone Institute

The work of the principal leaders of these associations must be congratulated on their combined efforts, efforts individually and the efforts by their fine staff.

Mike Adelizz - Executive Director, MCAA

Jessica Johnson Bennett - Government Affairs, MCAA

Mark Hogan - President, NCMA

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## Associated Builders and Contractors, Virginia Chapter, Breaks Ground on Community Service Project: The Hopkins House Child and Family Development Center

The ground breaking ceremony took place back on January 20, 2006, with members of ABC-VA, representatives from Hopkins House and Congressman Jim Moran.

ABC-VA members are donating services and materials to build the 8,000 square-foot building. The center will house after school programs, adult training, a preschool academy, and computer training for low-income, working families with children in the Mt. Vernon and Lee communities of Fairfax County.

Since 1939, Hopkins House has been dedicated to helping the children and families of the community to receive all the education, support and love they need to succeed in society. Services provided range from high-quality preschool education to individual parent counseling, and include monthly workshops for mothers and fathers that address financial literacy, healthy habits for children, and a continuum of care for their children upon graduation.

In order to expand their capacity and make a difference in the Northern Virginia community, Hopkins House is constructing a new center for children and families of Fairfax County. They rely heavily on individual donations and volunteer resources to continue their services. Please consider joining the growing family of caring individuals and companies who donate resources to help children and their families. They are not looking for a handout: just an opportunity to gain financial and family stability.

With the list still growing, the volunteers on this project include: Wilmot Modular Structures, Inc., RCD, Inc., Rutherford, R.W. Murray Co., Centex Construction, P & P Contractors, Inc., Southland Concrete, Commercial Carpets of America, Cardinal-VA Concrete Co., L.F. Jennings, Inc., Trowbridge Steel, Prospect Roofing, Anderson Companies, Watt, Tieder, and Hoffar, and Shirley Contracting.

For more information on how to become a part of this project and the programs and services of Hopkins House, please contact:

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## Masonry Institute Craftsmanship Awards Ceremony Held

The Masonry Institute held the Craftsmanship Awards banquet on March 14, 2006 at Maggiano's Tysons II. It was a well attended affair and the following are the projects, architects and masonry companies who received awards.

PROJECT	ARCHITECT	MASON CONTRACTOR
Carlyle Crescent	The Smith Group	Falls Church Construction
Dunbarton Oaks	Venturi-Scott-Brown	Genco Masonry, Inc.
400 Mass Ave.	Esocoff & Associates	Genco Masonry, Inc.
Our Lady of Good Counsel	LeMay Erickson Architects	V. F. Pavone Construction
NIH Clinical Research Facility	Zimmer-Gunsel-Frasca	J.D. Long Masonry Partnership
Jillian's Forest Way	Ryland Homes	Masonry Design, Inc.
Lime Kiln Road	Mc Cauley Group	Falls Church Construction

A Power Point presentation was given with the photos of each project and with judge's comments. Each of the Foremen for the awarded projects received an American Eagle Flag hardhat, which were as popular as the awards themselves.

### Directors Corner

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Randall Pence - Capital Advocates/ Lobbyist for NCMA

Joe Casper - V.P. Environment, Health & Safety, BIA

Jeff Buczkiewicz - Executive V.P., Building Stone Institute

The primary issues facing our industry that were discussed with over 25 elected officials were:

Comprehensive Immigration Reform

OSHA Reform

Army Corp. of Engineers "Transformation Reform"

Energy Costs and Energy Conservation in Buildings

Rebounding the Highly Skilled Workforce

Fire Safety, Balanced Design & Structural Fire Safety

Wind - Resistant Construction

Permanent Repeal of the Death Tax

If anyone is interested in my summary report I will be happy to provide you with a copy, just give me a call at 866-529-7994.

## OSHA Issues Final Standard On Hexavalent Chromium

The following statements were taken from the OSHA bi-weekly e-news, March 1, 2006.

This is for your information so that you will be mindful of changes needed in the workplace if they apply.

A final standard covering occupational exposure to hexavalent chromium in general industry, construction and shipyards was published by OSHA in the Federal Register. The new standard lowers the agency's permissible exposure limit (PEL) for hexavalent chromium from 52 to 5 micrograms per cubic meter of air as an 8-hour time weighted average, and includes provisions for respiratory protection, personal protective equipment, recordkeeping, preferred methods for controlling exposure and more.

Hexavalent chromium compounds are most commonly used as a structural and anti-corrosive element in stainless steel, iron, and steel production, and in welding and painting, and have been associated with lung cancer and skin disorders.

This standard could have potentially precedent-setting provisions that will play out with the "SILICA" standard, so you should be aware.

To summarize this experience and exercise as taxpaying citizens of our great country, let me say that each and every owner and operator of a business could have benefited from some participation in this Legislative Conference. Our industry has been enjoying prosperous times, but we must not lose sight that many legislative issues facing our industry today could have profound repercussions. We must take time to be proactive for our future and not rest in our comfort zone while times are good. Let's all take a moment to recall the 80's, not so comfortable!

## Virginia Masonry Association of Richmond Hosts Brick & Block Party 2006

The Virginia Masonry Association of Richmond held their 6<sup>th</sup> annual Brick & Block Party April 5, 2006, in conjunction with AIA Richmond Chapter Architecture Week.

The event was hosted and held at Allied Concrete Products facilities in Richmond. They brought together Architects, Contractors, State and County officials. The objective was to provide the latest data to support balanced design with concrete masonry products, providing fire resistant ratings of concrete masonry assemblies, and also data on blast and bullet resistant concrete masonry buildings, and the importance of balance design as it relates to fire protection in multifamily residential buildings.

They also provided the opportunity for each attendee to participate in hands on material handling, from laying brick in a wall, layout and placement of concrete pavers, and the layout and placement of segmented retaining walls. Everyone who got in there and handled the materials really enjoyed themselves. For most, as me, it was a humbling experience to realize the skill it takes to build with those materials.

Another impressive demonstration was exhibited by using the "Huffs" & "Puffs" of the Clemson University's air cannon! They had six mock up walls representing, solid reinforced masonry, single wythe masonry, metal stud, composite siding board, aluminum siding, and

particle board. They used the cannon and shot a 2x4 into each wall assembly. Needless to say everyone was very clear of what they want there homes to be built with for maximum protection from hurricane force winds, blast resistance and bullet penetration. We don't want to think of those possibilities, but they do exist in the real world today.

The day was very informative, they had a great turnout, they fed everyone a fabulous lunch, and I would like to "Thank" Marsha Meighan, Director of VMA, Gary Madden, Allied Concrete Products, Steve Coor, Allied Concrete Products, and Ron Jordan, with Advantus Strategies for inviting me to attend and for sharing such a wealth of information for our industry.

## Local Apprentices Hit It Big In Las Vegas

Once again our Masonry Institute is proud to announce the outcome of the National Apprenticeship Competition held at the MCAA Masonry Showcase in Las Vegas, Nevada March 29<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup>.

The two apprentices representing our region were 2<sup>nd</sup> year apprentice Jason Thrift with Ka Ron Masonry, Beltsville, MD, and 1<sup>st</sup> year apprentice Elizabeth Cleckley, with Baltimore Masonry, Baltimore, Md.

You should remember Elizabeth and Jason from last Octobers apprentice competition, in which, they won their place to compete in the national competition. Both of these up and coming brick masons made us proud of their hard work and

the dedication they are putting into their careers. Jason took 1<sup>st</sup> place for 2<sup>nd</sup> year apprentice and Elizabeth took 2<sup>nd</sup> place for 1<sup>st</sup> year apprentice. Jason's boss, Scott Bryan stated that Jason had started as a laborer and has worked hard through the company apprenticeship program and that he is a great asset to Ka Ron Masonry.

Elizabeth has a very strong ambition and determination, she is taking blueprint reading and as I stated before, you will hear her name in the future.

A very important event took place after she finished the competition. Her boyfriend, also an apprentice in 3<sup>rd</sup> year arranged for them to take a helicopter ride down

into the Grand Canyon for a romantic dinner. While in awe of the ride and the Grand Canyon and the whole experience, he proposed to her. Elizabeth said she was shaking so bad and was shocked, but overjoyed and also she said "Yes"!

Her family and her instructor from Applied Technologies North, Curtis Hoover were all in Las Vegas to support her and it ended up being a trip that will have memories of a lifetime for them all. Congratulations! on all your accomplishments and plans for your future. Elizabeth is a light of inspiration and a fine example for many and we wish her nothing but the best!

## MASONRY INSTITUTE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TUESDAY MAY 16, 2006	MI BOARD MEETING 10:30 A.M. L.F. JENNINGS OFFICE
THURSDAY MAY 25, 2006	SCHOOLS COMMITTEE MTG. 1:30 P.M. L.F. JENNINGS OFFICE
MONDAY JUNE 19, 2006	MASONRY INSTITUTE ANNUAL GOLF OUTING NORBECK COUNTRY CLUB OLNEY, MD

On behalf of the Masonry Institute, we would like to thank Ed Owens, NE Region **Quikrete Company**, Mark Peters, General Manager **General Shale Corp.**, Lou Cocks Jr. Owner/President, **Masonry Design Inc.** and Paul Fisher, **Lehigh Cement** for graciously agreeing to sponsor this issue of *Brick, Block & Trowel*.

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Atlanta, Georgia

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